AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth or immunoglobulin production, or both, in ~~an animal~~ mammal comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof; and

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence~~; and~~

~~(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog~~.

Claims 2 - 3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method of treatment of an autoimmune disease comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof; and

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence~~; and~~

~~(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog~~.

Claims 5 - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method of treating B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;

(b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence~~; and~~

~~(c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog~~.

8. (currently amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, ~~to 7~~ 4, and 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.

9. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the soluble BAFF-R polypeptide comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the BAFF-R extracellular domain is fused to an immunoglobulin.

11. (currently amended) A method according to any one of claims 1, ~~to 7~~ 4, and 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of

a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and

e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.

Claims 12 - 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method according to any one of claims ~~14~~ 1, 4, and 7, wherein the mammal is human.

Claims 16 - 18. (canceled)

19. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide or a fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

c) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and

e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.

21. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide fragment comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain fused to an immunoglobulin.

22. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.

23. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of binding to BAFF.

24. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of binding to BAFF.

25. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.

26. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.

27. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% identity with to amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% identity with to amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% identity with to amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% identity with to amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 22 to 28 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is fused to an immunoglobulin constant region.